

SENATE BILL No. 542

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-1-1.1-5; IC 20-11-7.

Synopsis: Educational research institute. Creates the educational research institute to conduct and disseminate scientifically valid research concerning education and scientifically valid evaluations of educational programs in Indiana.

Effective: July 1, 2003.

Clark

January 23, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on Education and Career Development.

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First Regular Session 113th General Assembly (2003)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2002 Regular or Special Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 542

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-1-1.1-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.48-1999,
2 SECTION 1, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2003]: Sec. 5. The department shall:

- 4 (1) perform the duties required by statute;
5 (2) implement the policies and procedures established by the
6 board;
7 (3) ~~conduct analytical research to assist the state board of~~
8 ~~education in determining the state's educational policy;~~
9 (4) (3) compile statistics concerning the ethnicity and gender of
10 students in Indiana schools, including statistics for all information
11 that the department receives from school corporations on
12 enrollment, number of suspensions, and number of expulsions;
13 and
14 (5) (4) provide technical assistance to school corporations.

15 SECTION 2. IC 20-1-1-7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS
16 A **NEW** CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
17 1, 2003]:



Chapter 7. Educational Research Institute

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "board" means the advisory board appointed under section 13 of this chapter.

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "department" refers to the department of education established by IC 20-1-1.1-2.

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "director" means the director of the institute appointed under section 14 of this chapter.

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "disseminate" means to communicate and transfer, through technical assistance, electronic transfer, or other means, the results of scientifically valid evaluations, research, and statistics in a format that is:

- (1) understandable by;
- (2) easily accessible to; and
- (3) usable or adaptable for use in the improvement of educational practices by;

teachers, administrators, librarians, practitioners, researchers, policymakers, and the public.

Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "field initiated research" means basic or applied research:

- (1) in which specific questions and methods of study are put forth by investigators, including teachers and other practitioners; and
- (2) that conforms to the standards of scientifically valid research.

Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "institute" means the educational research institute established by section 12 of this chapter.

Sec. 7. (a) As used in this chapter, "scientifically based research standards" refers to standards that:

- (1) apply rigorous, systematic, and objective methodology to obtain reliable and valid knowledge relevant to educational activities and programs; and
- (2) present findings and make claims that are appropriate to and supported by the methods that have been used.

(b) The term includes the following, as appropriate to the research being conducted:

- (1) Employing systematic, empirical methods that draw on observation or experiment.
- (2) Data analyses that are adequate to support general findings.
- (3) Measurements or observational methods that provide reliable data.
- (4) Claims of causal relationships that are made only in

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random assignment experiments or other designs, if the designs substantially eliminate plausible competing explanations for the results obtained.

(5) Studies and methods presented in sufficient detail and clarity to enable replication or to offer the opportunity to build systematically on the findings of the research.

(6) Using research designs and methods appropriate to the research question posed.

(7) Studies, methods, and results presented in a manner that gains approval by a peer reviewed journal or by a panel of independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective, and scientific review.

Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "scientifically valid evaluation" means a review and evaluation that:

(1) adheres to the highest possible standards of quality with respect to research design and statistical analysis;

(2) provides an adequate description of the programs evaluated and, to the extent possible, examines the relationship between program implementation and program effects;

(3) provides an analysis of the results achieved by the program with respect to the program's projected results;

(4) employs experimental designs using random assignment when feasible and other research methodologies that allow for the strongest possible causal inferences when random assignment is not feasible; and

(5) may study program implementation through a combination of scientifically valid and reliable methods.

Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "scientifically valid research" includes applied research, basic research, and field initiated research in which the rationale, design, and interpretation are soundly developed using scientifically based research standards.

Sec. 10. As used in this chapter, "state board" refers to the Indiana state board of education established by IC 20-1-1-1.

Sec. 11. As used in this chapter, "superintendent" refers to the state superintendent of public instruction.

Sec. 12. The educational research institute is established to perform the following functions:

(1) Support effective teaching, learning, and student achievement in Indiana in the following manner:

(A) By carrying out scientifically valid research related to education in Indiana.

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(B) By establishing and carrying out a systematic, scientifically valid evaluation of the effectiveness of educational programs.

(C) By conducting surveys and compiling statistics related to education and educational programs.

(D) By providing research to the state board to assist the state board in determining the education policy of the state.

(E) By disseminating the results of activities conducted under this chapter to the public, the department, the state board, the superintendent, the governor and, upon request, the general assembly.

(2) Evaluate programs established under this title.

(3) Ensure Indiana's alignment and compliance with federal educational goals.

Sec. 13. (a) The educational research institute advisory board is established.

(b) The members of the board are as follows:

(1) One (1) member, who need not be a senator, appointed by the president pro tempore of the senate.

(2) One (1) member, who need not be a senator, appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

(3) One (1) member, who need not be a representative, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(4) One (1) member, who need not be a representative, appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives.

(c) The term of a board member is two (2) years. A board member may be reappointed. A board member is not entitled to the minimum salary per diem as provided in IC 4-10-11-2.1(b) while performing the board member's duties. A board member is entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses and other expenses actually incurred in connection with the board member's duties, as provided in the state travel policies and procedures established by the Indiana department of administration and approved by the budget agency.

(d) The board shall assist the director in establishing priorities for research and program evaluation.

Sec. 14. (a) The director of the institute:

(1) is appointed by the governor;

(2) serves a term of four (4) years; and

(3) may be reappointed.



(b) The director must have experience in statistical analysis and practices.

(c) The director may:

(1) with the approval of the board and the budget agency, hire the personnel necessary to carry out the duties of the institute; and

(2) enter into contracts with institutions of higher education and other research institutions to carry out educational research under this chapter.

(d) The director has the following powers and duties:

(1) To:

(A) establish a schedule for; and

(B) conduct;

the periodic scientifically valid evaluation of the effectiveness of each educational program required under this title.

(2) To provide scientifically valid evaluations of educational pilot programs.

(3) To prepare, at least biennially, a report of research activities carried out by the institute, including:

(A) a description of how the activities are consistent with scientifically valid research; and

(B) the results of evaluations carried out under subdivisions (1) and (2).

(4) Upon request, provide statistical compilations, surveys, and information to the legislative services agency.

Sec. 15. In addition to funds appropriated by the general assembly, the institute may accept funds from other sources to carry out this chapter, including federal funds and private donations.

Sec. 16. The department shall provide to the institute:

(1) information requested by the institute to carry out this chapter; and

(2) scientifically valid research conducted by the department in support of federal and state grant programs.

SECTION 3. [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2003] (a) As used in this SECTION:

(1) "department" refers to the department of education established by IC 20-1-1.1-2; and

(2) "institute" refers to the educational research institute established by IC 20-11-7-12, as added by this act.

(b) Not later than December 15, 2003, the governor shall appoint the director of the institute. Notwithstanding

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1 IC 20-11-7-14(a)(2), as added by this act, the initial term of the
2 director appointed under this SECTION expires June 30, 2006.

3 (c) Not later than December 31, 2003, the appointing authorities
4 set forth in IC 20-11-7-13(b), as added by this act, shall appoint the
5 members of the advisory board of the institute.

6 (d) On January 1, 2004, any employee of the department whose
7 primary responsibility is conducting and compiling research
8 becomes an employee of the institute.

9 (e) Notwithstanding IC 20-11-7-14(d)(3), as added by this act,
10 the initial report of the institute must be issued not later than June
11 30, 2004.

12 (f) This SECTION expires June 30, 2006.

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